

HISTORY OF CHINA

HISTORY 262/2 LEC. AA

FALL, 2001

INSTRUCTOR: Martin Singer

OFFICE: AD 229 (Loyola); LB-689 (SGW)

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OFFICE HOURS: By appointment

CLASS HOURS: Wednesdays 18:05-20:10

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COURSE DESCRIPTION:

This course provides an introduction to China's history from earliest times to the modern era. The first half of the course is devoted to traditional China and consists of a series of thematic lectures on China's political, philosophical/religious, social, economic, diplomatic and cultural traditions. The second half focuses on China since 1800, with particular emphasis on the West in China; on the three stages of the Chinese revolution (Taiping, Nationalist and Communist); and on the transformation of China after 1949.

COURSE WEBSITE:

The course website (located at <http://artsandscience.concordia.ca/hist262>) is an integral part of the course. There students will find both the course syllabus and lecture schedule that have been distributed in class; a list of topically arranged suggested readings; and links to other China internet resources. As well, outlines and video versions of each week's lecture will be posted on the website several days after each lecture is delivered. Finally, the course website contains both a message board and an electronic discussion group for course related matters.

REQUIRED TEXTS:

Ebrey, Chinese Civilization: A Sourcebook

Schirokauer, A Brief History of Chinese Civilization

EXAMINATIONS:

There will be a mid-term examination on Wednesday October 24 and a formal final examination which is to be scheduled during the December examination period.

OPTIONAL PAPERS:

Some students may wish to do an optional paper in addition to the two examinations. They should look initially at the list of suggested reading topics that is posted on the course website. Those who wish to pursue other topics should do so only after consultation with, and approval from, the instructor. Each student electing to do an optional paper is expected to read at least three books on the theme that he or she selects and to produce a short (10-page) critical essay based on the readings. The optional essay is to be type written and must be submitted no later than Wednesday, November 21 to be considered.

GRADING:

For those students who do not write the optional term paper, the grading distribution will be as follows: mid-term exam – 40%, final exam – 60%. For those students who do write an optional paper, the grading distribution will be as follows: mid-term – 25%, paper 25%, final – 50%.

**HISTORY OF CHINA
SCHEDULE OF LECTURES AND READINGS
FALL, 2001**

DATE:

LECTURE TOPIC:

Sept. 5 Geographical context of Chinese History

TRADITIONAL CHINA

(READINGS: Ebrey, Sections I-VI; Schirokauer, Chaps. 1-10)

Sept. 12 Historical Framework

Sept. 19 Philosophy and Religion

Sept. 26 Class cancelled

Oct. 3 Government and Politics

Oct. 10 Society and Economy

Oct. 17 Culture/Foreign Relations

Oct. 24 Mid-term examination

MODERN CHINA

(READINGS: Ebrey, Section VII-VIII; Schirokauer, Chaps. 11-16)

Oct. 31 The West comes to China

Nov. 7 The beginnings of the Chinese Revolution

Nov. 14 Nationalists: the revolution continues

Nov. 21 Communists: the revolution succeeds

Nov. 28 China since 1949